

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 6 is amended to correct a minor typographical error therein. No new matter is added by the above amendments.

Claims 1-4 and 6-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,736,278 to Nakazawa et al. In addition, claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakazawa et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Nakazawa et al. has a U.S. filing date of June 20, 1996. Attached to this Amendment are verified translations of the five priority documents for this application, each of which has a filing date in Japan that is before June 20, 1996. The priority documents support this application's claims and have the following filing dates: JP-7-180481 (July 17, 1995), JP-7-268899 (October 17, 1995), JP-8-24515 (February 9, 1996), JP-8-94551 (April 16, 1996) and JP-8-94552 (April 16, 1996). Accordingly, Nakazawa et al. does not qualify as a reference under any portion of 35 U.S.C. §102. Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

The obviousness-type double patenting rejections of claims 1-12 are rendered moot by the Terminal Disclaimer filed herewith. The Terminal Disclaimer references co-pending Applications No. 09/671,354 and 10/995,176.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Terminal Disclaimer  
Verified Translations of Priority Documents (5)

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